



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

March 21, 2005

News Release

TUCSON ICE AGENTS APPREHEND NINE ILLEGALS WORKING AT NATIONAL DEFENSE SUBCONTRACTOR

TUCSON – A months-long investigation by agents in the Tucson office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) led this morning to the arrest of nine undocumented aliens at Pacific Maintenance, Inc., a national defense subcontractor in Tucson.

The illegal workers utilized fraudulent Social Security numbers and counterfeit immigration residence cards to obtain employment at Pacific Maintenance, which provides subcontracted janitorial services to Honeywell, IBM and Texas Instrument facilities in the Tucson area.

“Safeguarding the workplace within the national security infrastructure from the presence of unauthorized individuals is one of our highest priorities,” said Kent Johansson, Deputy Special Agent-in-Charge of the ICE Office of Investigation in Tucson. “We will continue our focus in this area to ensure that employees with access to sensitive areas of the infrastructure are authorized not only to be in the United States but also to be employed.”

ICE special agents took into custody a group ranging in age from the mid-twenties to the late forties and who were all identified as nationals of Mexico. None of the nine were found to have criminal backgrounds or aggravated immigration histories and will be voluntarily returned to Mexico.

A routine ICE survey of I-9 employment eligibility verification forms at the Tucson Honeywell facility led agents to focus on janitorial employees working for Pacific Maintenance, Inc. and the fact that Pacific also provided subcontracted services to IBM and Texas Instruments. ICE agents stated that management personnel at Pacific fully cooperated with the investigation and that punitive action against the employer was not anticipated.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.